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ELLIS MORRIS, Supl.

The Meeting Between a Fighting  
Editor and a Kentucky Colonel  
—Ex-Speaker Randall's  
Father Present.

Political differences are settled easier nowadays than they were half a century ago, said an old, gray-haired statesman to a Philadelphia Times reporter. I remember distinctly, he continued, when James Watson Webb, one of the great editors of the olden time, lay wounded at the Union States hotel on Chestnut street, near Fourth. He was shot in a duel within twenty-five miles of the city by a Kentucky statesman, Col. Thomas F. Marshall, son of Chief Justice Marshall. That was forty-four years ago this summer. The duel took place early in the morning in a lonely field skirting the Delaware State line, below Marcus Hood. Josiah Randall, ex-Speaker Randall's father was one of the participants. An ill-feeling had arisen from a congressional debate on the repeal of the bankruptcy bill of 1841. About the same time Monroe Edwards was convicted in New York for forging drafts to the tune of \$60,000 on bankers and others in that metropolis. Among those who defended Edwards was Col. Tom Marshall. An editorial paragraph from the pen of Col. Webb, published in the New York Courier and Enquirer during the famous trial, read as follows: "We learn that Hon. T. F. Marshall, after wandering about the country for some thirty days, lecturing on temperance and giving his experience as a devotee of the bottle, has returned to defend the notorious Monroe Edwards. For his forty days absence he will draw from the treasury \$329 for making a mountback of himself, and devoting his time to advocating the claims of a notorious scoundrel." In addressing the jury Marshall adverted to this attack, and spoke in a meaning way of charges made against him and fellow-members in receiving, by way of bribery, British coin to the tune of \$100,000 apiece. The defeat of his client, and other grievances were too much for southern blood, and the satisfaction usually exacted among gentlemen was demanded.

After some skirmishing a meeting was held in Wilmington and preliminaries settled. The arrival of the parties being noticed abroad, by a clever recourse of stratagem they out-manevred legal vigilance. Dr. Carr and Dr. Gibson, son of Prof. Gibson, of this city, waited on the six-foot-two Kentuckian, while Maj. Morell, proprietor of the Courier, and Dr. Tucker, a Virginian, then residing here, did the honors for Col. Webb. Josiah Randall was present as a friend of the editor. He was then like Col. Webb, a staunch Whig. By daybreak ten paces were measured off and a stone placed at the extremities of the line. Maj. Morell tossed a coin for choice of position. The silver falling in the grass caused some controversy, but Marshall settled it by impatiently calling out to his second, "Give it to them, doctor. I came here to have a shot at him, and I do not mean to be baffled by trifles." "We ask you to give nothing," proudly answered the major. "We ask but what is our right." Again the coin spun upwards and fortune was again with the New Yorker. The duelists and their friends were searched, according to stipulation. "Gentlemen, are you ready?" sang out the major, as the sun was struggling in to light. "I am," said the colonel. "I am not," put in Marshall, now the object of general observation. With a searching earnest look at Col. Webb, he flung off his coat and slowly lifted his hat and tossed it aside. "Now sir I am ready." The major distinctly commanded: "Fire—one, two, three." The simultaneous report made some believe at first that only one had fired. Both were wide of the mark.

"Another shot!" shouted Marshall, raising his pistol. Again came the signal, and Col. Webb was observed slightly staggering. He was prevented from falling by one of the seconds. Upon the surgeon reporting to Marshall that Col. Webb was wounded below the knee, he thundered out: "Hit in the knee! It is the damndest lowest act of my life. We must exchange another shot; that man has injured me more than any being on earth. If he can stand I expect an demand that we shall exchange fire again." The bystanders intervening the matter was left to the surgeon's decision, who made it understood that it was impossible, owing to the colonel's condition, to continue the matter at present. The late southerner thereupon shrugged his shoulders and observed: "We have no further business here, and may as well return to the hotel."

Col. Webb, on learning of the demand for a third shot, remarked: "I have entertained no unkind feelings toward Mr. Marshall at any time, nor do I now feel unkindly toward him. I do not know why he should bear such uncompromising malice toward me." When Marshall returned to the hotel he cooled down somewhat, and made inquiry of Mr. Randall as to the extent of Col. Webb's injuries. His subsequent career lost much of its brilliancy by a too free use of stimulants. The wounded colonel was laid up for some time in the United States Hotel. He took it good-naturedly, and upon one occasion he fastidiously remarked: "I am confined to bed under Marshall law." Under the statutes of the State of New York he was tried and convicted, but executive clemency being evoked, interposed in his behalf. Col. Webb was appointed minister to Brazil by President Lincoln, and while in that position he is credited with obtaining a settlement of the claims of the United States against that country and of being instrumental through his intimacy with Napoleon III., of having the French troops withdrawn from Mexico.

What Tom Moore Said.

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